

2006 Grants

East Asia and the Pacific: 19

Name of Organization: National Committee on US-China Relations

Subject: Developing e-governance and municipal governance capacities in the PRC and Taiwan

This grant has the objective of increasing cross-Strait understanding through a dialogue on municipal governance. It is providing a forum for representatives of municipal governments in the United States, PRC and Taiwan to share best practices in e-government. Through discussions about the ways in which they use e-government to communicate with citizens and coordinate delivery of services, the program enables participants to learn more about the relationship between government, citizens and civil society in other jurisdictions. The program is planned for three stages: workshops in the PRC and Taiwan that include American specialists; a study tour of the United States; and dissemination of educational materials, including a jointly authored article. Partners are the Academy of E-Government at Peking University and the Taichung municipal government.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: US-Vietnam Trade Council

Subject: Developing responsible governance

This project partners the Vietnamese Young Businesspeople's Association and the State of Oklahoma and starts in the 4th Quarter of 2006 with three one-day seminars on responsible governance in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City for 150 young leaders in local government, the private sector and civic organizations. In the 1st or 2nd Quarter of 2007, there is a 3-4 week program in Washington, DC and Oklahoma for a group of 10 to 12 Vietnamese community leaders, including two to three-week internship assignments in government offices, NGOs, civic associations, universities or community organizations in Oklahoma; there is also a volunteerism component in community service projects. The project concludes in the 2nd or 3rd Quarter of 2007 with follow-up seminars and on-site consultancies in Vietnam.

Country(ies): Vietnam

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: American Bar Association

Subject: Enhancing accountability and transparency in environmental decision-making

This project brings ten key Chinese environmental officials and NGO representatives to Washington in Spring 2007 for an intensive orientation and then for six-week internships in New York, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Chicago. The internships are designed to provide the Chinese participants with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to develop and effectively implement concrete programs and initiatives to improve citizen participation and transparency in environmental decision-making in their daily work in China. Two week follow-ups for practical implementation in China are conducted by five US experts in Summer 2007.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: IL

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Ohio University

Location: OH

Subject: Developing professional standards in broadcast media/ethnic conflict

This grant allows Ohio University's departments of Southeast Asian Studies, Journalism, and Telecommunications to assist the development of professional standards in Indonesian broadcast media, focusing on reporting inter-group conflicts and ethnic diversity. The project includes workshops in Indonesia followed in Summer 2007 by an intensive professional program at Ohio University and three-week internships at news departments at TV stations in various cities in Ohio. Six of the US host journalists then carry out further on-site training and consultancies in Indonesia.

Country(ies): Indonesia

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: OH

Theme(s): Media

Name of Organization: University of Massachusetts

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Subject: Demonstrating due process, transparency, and judicial independence

Under this grant, the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Judges Conference, a private association of over 400 sitting and retired Massachusetts state judges, continues its ongoing Moot Court Project to aid China in its efforts to bring transparency and reform to its judicial system. Project activities focus on Northwest China in Spring of 2007 and Southwest China in the Spring of 2008. In between, a delegation of 10 Chinese judges and academics come to Boston for consultations, internships, and to present their own moot court.

Country(ies): China

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Columbia University

Location: New York, New York

Subject: Developing Tibetan capacities in conservation and ecotourism

Columbia University is conducting an educational and cultural exchange to develop human capacity in Tibet that will facilitate the training of Tibetans in ecotourism and conservation. The project develops relevant educational materials and courses in the Tibetan language in order to support the work of other NGOs working with Tibetans on ecotourism implementation. It also provides training for government planners and policymakers. Through exchanges between U.S. and Tibetan educators, conservationists and experts, the project is training tourism practitioners and equip a core group of Tibetan teachers to develop the knowledge and teaching of ecotourism and conservation, by holding courses, workshops and meetings in the U.S. and in various areas of Tibet, and by preparing and distributing Tibetan-language case studies and educational materials.

Country(ies): China-Tibet

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: The Tibet Fund

Subject: Improving entrepreneurial skills of Tibetan professionals

The Tibet Fund is implementing an exchange program designed to give Tibetans access to higher education in China and the United States. The project's goal is to improve economic conditions in all of Tibet, including the Tibetan areas in the surrounding provinces of Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan, and Yunnan. The program encourages the development of entrepreneurship among Tibetans by training them in fields such as computer science, tourism, and English. This grant supports the continuation of two programs, one of which sends ten professionals to train for a year in the United States, and the other for 40 students to train in English, computer science, and tourism at the Khampa Institute in Dhartsedo.

Country(ies): China-Tibet

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State:

Theme(s): Business

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Tibet Poverty Alleviation Fund

Subject: Providing on-the-job training opportunities for Tibetans

This grant provides four months of theoretical and practical on-the-job training to at least 80 township- and village-level Tibetans in motorcycle repair skills, supplemented by training in basic enterprise management and accounting skills for rural enterprises. The project provides small grants to help with the establishment of township and village motorcycle repair enterprises and provide them with their initial stock of tools and motorcycle spare parts. Training is conducted at the Nakchu Vocational Training Center, while main responsibility for the selection of trainees and support to the establishment of township and village enterprises rests with the staff of the Nakchu Poverty Alleviation Office.

Country(ies): China-Tibet

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State:

Theme(s): Business

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: University of Virginia

Location: Charlottesville, VA

Subject: Creating economic opportunities for Tibetans in geotourism

This grant to the University of Virginia (UVA) creates an innovative model for Tibetan geotourism -- tourism that is culturally, economically and ecologically attentive to and beneficial to local communities - thereby addressing the need for responsible models of educating tourists and agencies on community realities, perspectives and needs. UVA implements that model in Kham, eastern Tibet (in present-day Sichuan Province), which lags behind the Tibet Autonomous Region yet has tremendous potential for tourism because of its striking landscape, rich culture, and permit-free travel. UVA is designing and implementing sustainable instances of three types of tourism (mainstream, volunteer, and study abroad) to refine the model, create momentum, and produce detailed case studies.

Country(ies): China-Tibet

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: VA

Theme(s): Business

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Institute for Training and Development

Location: Boston, MA

Subject: Providing training in civic involvement and curriculum development for Indonesian educators

This grant funds a project for 30 secondary school English language teachers from Indonesia that aims for two specific and achievable results: 1) increased civic involvement through community service projects initiated by the teachers and their students, and 2) the integration of accurate and up-to-date information about the US in new English language curriculum units developed by the teachers. The first phase of the project is an information and recruitment campaign, while Phase Two is comprised of the stateside training programs in February and March, 2007 in Amherst, Massachusetts, Tucson, AZ, and New York City. Phase three is the follow-up and implementation phase in the teachers' home districts in Indonesia.

Country(ies): Indonesia

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Heartland International

Location: Chicago, IL

Subject: Developing a training program for Indonesian educators

Heartland International, in partnership with the Center for Civic Education/Indonesia, is developing a second iteration of its educational training program focusing on strengthening private and community-based secondary education in Indonesia. This program is designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to promote diversity, tolerance and human rights, as well as to promote greater community involvement. Participants gain a comprehensive introduction to the U.S. education system, improve critical-thinking skills, and learn ways of promoting democratic values and entrepreneurship in students. The venues are Chicago, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, ending in Washington, D.C. with a round of meetings with members of Congress and representatives of the Department.

Country(ies): Indonesia

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: IL

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

Subject: Supporting a fellowship program U.S. federal government officials to work with Japanese counterparts

The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, established by Congress, in 1994, provides an opportunity for U.S. federal government officials to gain substantial personal knowledge about the Government of Japan by working alongside their counterparts in Japanese agencies. Those selected as Mansfield Fellows spend one year in Washington in intensive training in the Japanese language and the political economy of Japan, a second year in a Japanese government agency, and upon their return, work at least two years in the U.S. Government.

Country(ies): Japan

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State:

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Meridian International Center

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Supporting a youth exchange for Korean and U.S. university students

The Korean National Assembly Youth Exchange project is introducing U.S. and Korean university students to the political process, society and culture of Korea and the United States, respectively. The Korean students, together with their US counterparts, begin their three-week U.S. program in Washington with a series of talks and briefings on the U.S. political system and U.S. - Korean relations, coupled with time spent observing the operation of a congressional office. The Korean group then travels to New York City, Highland Park, IL, and Seattle to learn about volunteerism, racial and ethnic relations, environmental issues, and community development. The exchange concludes in Seoul where the Korean students have the opportunity to host their U.S. counterparts. Meridian International Center has responsibility for implementation of the U.S. program for the Korean participants and coordinating the travel of the American participants to Korea. The Korean National Assembly funds and administers the program for the U.S. students in Korea.

Country(ies): Korea

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Legacy International

Location: Bedford, Virginia

Subject: Fostering dialogue on scholarship and practice: Faith and Community

Legacy International is conducting a two-year project between U.S. and Indonesian clerics, scholars of religion, and community leaders to establish dialogue focused on the scholarship and practice of religion in the two nations. Activities include two 3-week visits of 14 Indonesians to the U.S. and two two-week visits of seven American participants to Indonesia. Participants travel to several cities and regions, participating in discussion forums and open dialogues. Legacy is partnering with four Indonesian organizations and universities and with several U.S. institutions of higher education as well as U.S.-based Muslim organizations.

Country(ies): Indonesia

Region: East Asia and Pacific

U.S. State: VA

Theme(s): Faith & Community

Name of Organization: University of Louisville

Location: Louisville, KY

Subject: Developing aspects of democracy in five Asian nations

This grant consists of three start-up projects that will initiate a Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville. The start-up projects are being carried out from September 1, 2006 through September 1, 2009, by which time an endowment will be returning income for the Center's operation. Per its title, this project focuses on different aspects of democracy building in five different Asian countries. It is divided into three separate, multi-year projects. Countries are (1) Kazakhstan, (2) Vietnam and Laos, and (3) China. The Kazakhstan project is to train participants on how NGOs can work more effectively with legislators. The Vietnam/Laos project begins with training and workshops in-country conflict resolution among government actors and between them and citizens. Its second part has some five Southeast Asians coming to the US for Master's degrees in related fields. The China project aims at studying and promoting Chinese democracy at the margin of political power: legislatures at lower levels, especially those outside of the nation's major centers.

Country(ies): Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Laos, China

Region: East Asia and Pacific, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: KY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Sister Cities International

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Supporting Sister City partnerships in over 130 countries

Sister Cities International (SCI), which promotes mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and abroad through the activities of the 1,300 U.S. cities affiliated with more than 2,400 sister cities in 137 countries around the world, acts as a coordinator and catalyst in the development of various types of sister-city programs. This grant partially supports SCI functioning as a clearinghouse to gather, analyze and disseminate information and work directly with community leaders and citizen volunteers, as well as elected officials.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: The American Council of Young Political Leaders

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Implementing two-week exchanges for young political leaders

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) supports the development of democratic practices and productive, ongoing contacts between politically active individuals in the United States and their overseas counterparts by coordinating a series of exchange programs for U.S. and foreign participants. These exchanges directly support the Department's U.S. strategic goal to open political systems and societies to democratic practices, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. ACYPL is implementing a series of two-week study tours, involving up to 30 delegations of seven to twelve members each.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: University of Alaska

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Subject: Supporting the implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference

The University of Alaska is implementing a variety of activities designed to address the preparation, planning and implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference. Specific activities include (1) the conference, to be held June 29-July 3, 2008, on the University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus and which focuses on issues associated with understanding permafrost evolution and its feedback to climate change; (2) the operation of the Education and Outreach Coordination Office, which supports activities related to the International Polar Year (IPY), including the travel of U.S. specialists to IPY activities abroad; and (3) the creation of a "Think-tank of the North"--a set of public seminars given around Alaska by prominent scientists, policy makers, and authors who have focused on understanding and adapting to the ongoing challenges the Arctic faces.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: AK

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: World Affairs Council of Oregon

Location: Portland, Oregon

Subject: Creating international connections in three cities and towns outside of Portland, Oregon

This grant supports the World Affairs Council of Oregon's efforts to increase that state's international connections in education, business, government and the non-profit sector in the cities and towns outside of metropolitan Portland. Project activities include the development of three regional centers in Medford, Pendleton and Bend; visits by international visitors at each center; outreach to schools; strengthening of adult discussion groups; and website development.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

